

House Education & the Workforce Committee

John Boehner, Chairman

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H.R. 1 SUMMARY

Summary: The *No Child Left Behind* Act (H.R. 1) As Passed by the House – May 23, 2001

“H.R. 1 reflects each of the four pillars of President Bush’s education reform plan - accountability and testing, flexibility and local control, research-based reform, and expanded parental options.” – Education Secretary Rod Paige on the *No Child Left Behind Act*, May 9, 2001

H.R. 1, President George W. Bush’s *No Child Left Behind Act*, holds states that use federal education dollars accountable for improving student achievement, grants unprecedented new flexibility to local school districts, empowers parents, and provides an escape route for children trapped in failing schools. **A summary of the bill as passed by the House is included below.**

ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY & DEMANDING RESULTS

- H.R. 1 includes President Bush’s rigorous plan for holding state and local school districts that use federal funds accountable for improving student achievement.
- The measure requires states and local schools to demonstrate results through annual reading and math assessments for students in grades 3-8. It authorizes \$400 million to help states design the tests.

UNPRECEDENTED LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

- H.R. 1 dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of the federal education dollars they receive among an assortment of ESEA programs as long as they demonstrate results. **Local school districts do not have to receive permission from the state or the Education Secretary to transfer funds.**
- In order to give local school districts **new freedoms from burdensome federal regulations**, the bill allows up to 100 local school districts to enter into five-year performance agreements with the Education Secretary that allow them to **waive federal program requirements** but holds them accountable for improving student achievement.
- This unprecedented new flexibility gives local school districts the freedom to target resources where they’re needed most -- from class size reduction to higher teacher salaries to technology in the classroom -- and address needs that often change from one year to the next.

BREAKTHROUGH CONSOLIDATION

- H.R. 1 gives states and local schools additional flexibility to improve student performance by consolidating duplicative programs to help state and local officials meet the unique needs of students.
- The bill eliminates or consolidates 34 federal ESEA programs out of a total of 66, streamlining more than 50 percent of the federal K-12 education bureaucracy in one swift stroke.

EMPOWERING PARENTS

- H.R. 1 requires states and school districts to prepare annual report cards on their schools to better inform parents about the quality of their child's school.
- Moreover, it allows parents to remove their child from a low-performing school and send them to a different public school immediately after their school has been identified as failing.

A SCHOOL CHOICE "SAFETY VALVE" FOR STUDENTS IN DANGEROUS, FAILING SCHOOLS

- Before allowing parents to send their children to another school, H.R. 1 gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial and technical assistance to help increase student achievement.
- **Immediate Public School Choice:** If a school does not make adequate yearly progress after one year, the district must implement certain corrective actions to improve the school, such as replacing certain staff, as well as offer public school choice **immediately** to all students in the failing school.
- **Supplementary Educational Services -- Including Tutoring by Faith-Based Providers:** The measure allows parents to use Title I funds to provide supplementary educational services -- including tutoring, after school services, and summer school programs -- for their children. Parents will choose from a list of providers that meet certain criteria, including **private faith-based providers**.
- **Students in unsafe schools** may transfer to a better-performing public or charter school.

PROHIBITING NATIONAL TESTING

- H.R. 1 explicitly prohibits federally sponsored national testing, federally controlled curriculum, as well as any mandatory national teacher test or certification.

THE PRESIDENT'S READING FIRST INITIATIVE

- H.R. 1 focuses on effective, proven methods of reading instruction and triples federal literacy funding from the present \$300 million to \$900 million in 2002.
- The President would spend \$5 billion over the next five years on reading programs for K-3 children.

IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY

- H.R. 1 consolidates teacher professional development programs to give school districts the flexibility to use funds to reduce class sizes by recruiting, hiring, and training new teachers, or on professional development for existing teachers.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

- H.R. 1 authorizes the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Act, and the Gun Free Schools Act -- which helps states and local school districts fund drug and violence prevention programs and before- and after-school activities.
- As part of the broad effort to make schools safer, H.R. 1 allows teachers to remove violent and persistently disruptive students from the classroom without fear of legal repercussions.

IMPROVING MATH & SCIENCE EDUCATION

- H.R. 1 establishes the Math and Science Partnership program to provide grant funds for states to work in conjunction with institutions of higher education in strengthening K-12 math and science education.
- Partnerships will focus on strengthening math and science instruction in elementary and secondary schools and may include such activities as making math and science curricula more rigorous, improving professional development, and attracting math and science majors to teaching.

PROMOTING ENGLISH FLUENCY

- The bill holds states and school districts accountable for ensuring that students are proficient in English after three years of attending school in the United States.
- It requires local educational agencies to **obtain parental consent** before placing children in an instructional program that is not taught primarily in English.

PROTECTING HOME SCHOOLS

- Home schools are freed from federal regulations not only in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (H.R. 1) but also ALL programs administered through the U.S. Department of Education.
- The bill exempts all home schools and those private schools that do not use federal funds from all testing requirements referenced in H.R. 1.